

University Missourian

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

- Nov. 6. Football, Seniors against Freshmen, 4 p. m.
Nov. 7. Football, Juniors against Sophomores, 4 p. m.
M. S. U. Debating Club, Room 53, Academic Hall.
Athenaeum Literary Society.
Nov. 14. Football—Missouri vs. Washington.
Athenaeum Literary Society.
Nov. 19. Lecture by George Z. T. Sweeney, Auditorium.
Nov. 21. Athenaeum Literary Society.
Nov. 25. 4 p. m. to Nov. 30, at 8 a. m. Thanksgiving Holidays.
Dec. 4. Lecture, John T. McCutcheon, Auditorium.
Dec. 18. Lecture, Lorado Taft, Auditorium.

FOR A NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

The University of Missouri needs a new fireproof, sanitary library building. The library with its 110,000 volumes and pamphlets is at present housed in basement, dark room, hall and caddy hole. Here the librarians and cataloguers must work the entire day by artificial light. The books are not available for use by the student body as they would be if placed on more accessible shelves.

The main reading room is too small for the students now enrolled. Many times a week during the rush of school work before quiz time, students are compelled to sit in uncomfortable parts of the room where the light reaches the printed page from various directions. This cross light is responsible for many of the students wearing glasses.

The library is in constant danger of destruction by fire. This would be a loss that cannot be estimated. A working library cannot be bought and started in a month. It is a growth that requires time. Many volumes in the library are out of print and cannot be bought at any price.

The good space now used for the library is needed for class rooms. Academic Hall, large as it is, has few recreation rooms and some of them are undesirable.

The state is able to erect a \$500,000 modern library at the University and ought to do it. With this amount of money, a building well lighted, well seated and fireproof can be built. The books would be safe, the shelves would be convenient and the surroundings pleasant. There students could study with economy of time and eyesight. The library is needed and Missouri should not delay in making a suitable appropriation.

VALUE OF GOOD PLAYS.

To the University student without the large city theaters near at hand, the great actors and actresses of the day are merely important. But to the inhabitants of the city they are as dear as the closest friends.

The great actors are those who most resemble the characters of real life. On the stage, as off, the winsome girl with infectious smile and charming manners has captured the heart of the audience before the dignified beauty with steely eyes has been properly introduced. The matinee hero, worshipped by women, is handsome, athletic, an ideal lover, and a courageous fighter.

Plays range from the melodrama, popular with the unlettered and those seeking excitement up the scale to the Grand Opera, adored by the intellectual highbrows and the Society leaders. Between these extremes may be found plays to suit every taste.

For those who love children and the pirates of childhood imagination, "Peter Pan" played by Maude Adams is ideal. For pure pathos, David Warfield in the "Music Master," is the leading actor. "Brown of Harvard" shows the brighter side of College life. Blanche Bates in "The Girl of the Golden West" gains the sincere love of the audience from the very beginning. The number of human interest plays which have drawn crowded houses, prove that the people like amusement to tone up their daily life.

If one lays aside prejudice and cant, he will find that the good play is beneficial, not harmful. Such a play brushes aside the blues, is the means of spending a most delightful evening, and gives one a more wholesome, sympathetic, view of life.

VIEWPOINTS

(The University Missourian invites contributions, not to exceed 200 words, on matters of University interest. The name of the writer should accompany such letters, but will not be printed unless desired. The University Missourian does not express approval nor disapproval of these communications by printing them.)

Ambition vs. Indolence.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:
One day last week a little man stepped into the Herald office and addressed one of the office men thus: "Say, mister, do you want some one to sell papers or carry a route?" The little man was told that he was too young and too small to attempt such a task; but he believed his request was worth more of a consideration and began to argue his cause by saying, "I'm ten years old."

The argument continued for a few minutes but the ambitious little fellow still pressed his claim for the position and said, "I can make change." The writer was so impressed with the boy's persistency that he was told to come back when fourteen years of age and he would get employment, then came the reply, "Will twelve do?" In all probability the little lad will not accept the employment offered him at fourteen years of age but seek a greater field of work.

The ambitious, the energetic and the doer of things are the men who make the wheel of industry turn; the indolent, the shiftless and the dishonest are the ones who retard the progress of action, and are always crying "hard times."

A difficult task is the test of character as well as the test of ability, skill and perseverance. This test is applied every day in Columbia and few there be who stand it and many fall by the wayside. J. E.

Agriculture for Women.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:
The College of Agriculture is as large an opening for young women as it is for young men and affords almost equal opportunities. Women can go into the government employ in its department of agriculture as well as men and here the pay is good and the position permanent. Instead of turning out so many school teachers who barely eke out an existence, a course of this sort should be taken by more of the women, where they can have a chance for advancement and make some headway in life. Custom has been followed so long that some are afraid to go into what is known as a man's work, but if more had the backbone to make such a start there wouldn't be so many women beggars.

On the other hand, if the farmer became unable to look after the farm, instead of employing an overseer who slights the work, Mrs. Farmer, if she had had a course in agriculture, could take up things just where her husband left off and run things as smoothly as ever. Of course, she could not do the manual labor but it is much easier to get hands than it is to get brains.

Agriculture is fast coming to the front and if a woman ever expects to get anywhere she will have to make a break away from custom and rustle for herself. CO-ED.

Build More Rapidly.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:
What makes Boone county, Columbia in particular, so slow about pushing the construction of public buildings? The men's gymnasium was so slow going up that it became a regular eyesore to the community and after it was completed the rubbish around it left to be carried off by the rain instead of clearing it away at once. The grounds were not finished until this spring, before which time they were nothing more nor less than a mudhole. Wagons going in with fuel had to be dug out, the contents unloaded, and the horses almost beat to death before the gym could be heated.

Another example of Columbia's inaction is the courthouse. It isn't finished yet, and from all appearances it won't be for some time. Such delinquency shows a lack of public interest in the citizen as well as pure laziness. Enterprise and pride in your town is lacking. Get somewhere!

IMPATIENT.

Approves Tearing up Walk.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:
The Halloween marauders at least made a move in the right direction when they tore up the old plank sidewalk on Hitt street. Whether or not this movement will result in any improvement is as yet a matter of conjecture. But if it should not, this, surely, could not be held against the party which started it. That such a walk did exist is certainly true, and any movement that is likely to bring about a change for the better can hardly be called entirely bad. K.

Money for Colleges.

Most of the colleges of the country are in constant receipt of bequests of women, some of them large and others small, all helping a good cause. Oberlin College has just received \$1,000 by the will of the late Elizabeth Warriner of Springfield, Mass. The income is to be devoted to the needs of students in the theological seminary.

"STUDENT ACTIVITIES"



THANKS!

H. S. MOORE, of Cape Girardeau, Editor of the Educational Outlook, and professor of American history and economics in the third district State Normal School, writes: "I have read the initial numbers of the University Missourian with pleasure. You are certainly publishing a good paper, much the best I have seen of its kind. You have every reason to be encouraged."

Prof. E. M. Brooks, superintendent of the Ridgeway public schools, writes: "For several weeks the University Missourian has come regularly to the reading table of our High School, and has already passed the experimental stage among our seventy-five pupils. I take pleasure in acknowledging your courtesy. Nothing that has come to our High School, as yet, has done more to arouse, among students, interest in the efficiency and affairs of the great institution of which all Missourians are becoming proud. I believe the results in increasing the interest over the state in Higher Education and turning attention to the splendid opportunities offered at our State University will more than justify the expense of sending the paper to the High Schools. It is read now by more than fifty per cent of our pupils."

Roswell Field, distinguished poet, author and journalist, formerly a student of the University of Missouri, writes from Chicago: "I have heard a good deal concerning the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri at Columbia and I believe it is accomplishing much good. I hope to be able to get a closer glimpse of it in the near future."

J. A. DeLaVergne, secretary of the executive committee of the School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, writes: "I want to say that I am very favorably impressed with the mechanical make-up of the University Missourian as well as with the up-to-date character of the news department and the ably conducted editorial department."

J. R. Powell, principal of the Yeatman High School, St. Louis, writes: "In behalf of the Yeatman High School, I desire to thank you for the regular receipt of the University Missourian. I consider the paper a remarkable contribution to college journalism."

"We wish you success," writes Philip T. Dodge, president of the Mergenthaler Linotype Company, of New York City, in forwarding to the Department of Journalism of the University of Missouri one of its linotype machines.

ORIGIN OF THE TITLE "MULES"

In 1880, when Dr. S. S. Laws was president of the University, the law students were christened "mules" and "mules" they have remained to this day.

As the students were assembling in the auditorium one day, the lawyers made so much noise that some time was required for President Laws to bring them to order. When he could make himself heard President Laws remarked that the lawyers seemed like a lot of mules with their brains in their heels. The name appealed to the students as very appropriate for the Lawyers, so "Mules" became their name and probably will remain so for all future time.

'VARSITY NOTES

Miss Margaret Drescher, of Hannibal, is visiting in Columbia.

K. F. Kautz, a Junior Engineer, went to his home at Hamilton, Mo., Saturday evening to vote.

H. A. Collier, who has been ill of typhoid fever for several weeks, was able to attend the Ames game Saturday.

C. A. Clifford left Saturday night for his home in College Mound, where he will cast his vote and return Wednesday.

Miss Rebecca Inman, who is in the Parker Memorial Hospital with eye trouble, will be able to leave in a short time.

Dr. A. J. Campbell, Missouri-Pacific railroad surgeon at Sedalia, was in Columbia yesterday. Dr. Campbell was a graduate of the University of Missouri in 1904.

Miss Kate Irving, of Marshall, Miss Florence Schultz, of Sedalia, and Miss Marie Stephens, of Boonville, have been here this week, and guests at the Kappa house.

Vest Wright, of the Sophomore football squad, returned to school today. He has been out since Wednesday before last nursing a strained back due to his football practice.

"Cub" Barney, football captain in 1902, and star quarter on the team in that year, and Burns More, both of Kansas City, visited at the Sigma Nu house Saturday and Sunday and witnessed the Ames game.

E. N. Hackney and Hal Shackelford have gone home to take part in election campaigns. The fathers of both are candidates for re-election to Congress on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Hackney from the fifteenth district and Mr. Shackelford from this district.

Ancient Marriage Contract.

A marriage contract over 2,000 years old discovered in a tomb near Cairo, Egypt, and now in the collection of the Museum of Art, Toledo, O., has, it is announced, been deciphered by the Egyptologists at the University of Strassburg, Germany, and found to be from a historic standpoint one of the most important documents brought to light in recent years. George W. Stevens, director of the Toledo Museum, speaking to a correspondent for the Associated Press, said: "The papyrus determines two matters of great importance. It establishes the period of an Egyptian Pharaoh whose time of reign has been hitherto unknown, and give us documentary evidence of the exalted financial position accorded to married women in Egypt three centuries before Christ—a position almost undreamed of and unlooked for by the most enthusiastic new woman of these modern days. The last Pharaoh's period of reign is established as Khababasha, and the time in 341 B. C. From the translation, it is established that in case the wife repudiated the husband, she allowed him to take back half his dowry. This is the reverse of modern customs, especially in European countries, where the wife is expected to contribute the dot or dower. The Egyptian husband not only received nothing from the bride, but had to put up a bonus to make himself a matrimonial possibility. The document shows that in case of a separation he was allowed by his wife to take but one-third of the money they should have acquired together during the time they were married."

TOLD ACROSS THE BREAKFAST TABLE

"Well, how was the funeral?" inquired the red headed "Soph" with the wart on his nose of the Junior "Medic."
"Thirty-three to nothing in favor of the Freshmen," replied the "Medic."
"There'll be a funeral here if any of the Moberly fellows who knocked the student down for singing 'Old Missouri,' should come here," growled the football man.

"From the look on your face, I'd think you were the chief mourner," remarked the Junior "Medic," looking at the solicitor for the Oven.

"I feel that way," nodded the Oven man. "Might have known I had no chance."

"A woman in the case?" muttered the wag tragically.

"Your diagnosis is way off," corrected the Arts student. "I recognize the symptoms as a severe case of election bet."

The solicitor nodded but, beyond saying that he felt in his bones he would be peddling brooms on Broadway to-morrow, remained silent throughout the rest of the meal.

"I suppose from now on we'll have to refer to Columbia as a metropolis," remarked the man who reads the Missourian.

"Another newspaper started here?" hazarded the Freshman.

"Better than that," continued the speaker. "The millennium is coming. The Wabash has promised Columbia a new station and electric lighted cars. It's almost too good to believe."

"Well, if we get better lights, improved streets, more paving, direct railway connection and a few other things, we'll be able to make a bid for the International balloon races, the next World's Fair, and maybe the national capital," observed the wag, but nobody stayed to listen.

ANCIENT SIGNS OF THE WEATHER

Is the crop of red haws larger than usual this fall? Are squirrels unusually active in storing away nuts? Are flocks of ducks flying south in U-shaped formations instead of V-shaped? If so, then prepare for a long, hard winter.

Many centuries before scientific methods were discovered for foretelling immediate changes in the weather, there were persons who, basing their knowledge on the ordinary observations of nature, dared to forecast a whole season's weather.

Thick husks of corn of a deep orange tint; the goosebore being larger and whiter than usual; the crops of nuts, immense in quantity and the squirrels laying in great stores of them; the partridges and woodchucks fearlessly approaching farm yards; the muskrats building larger and thicker "houses"—are some of the signs taken to indicate an unusually early and severe winter.

If the oak bears much mast, it foreshadows a long and hard winter, is an old and familiar saying.

Ice and cold in November are taken as a promise of warm weather about Christmas time. Hence the proverb, "If the ice bear a man before Christmas it will not bear a mouse after." And again: "If there's ice in November that will bear a duck, There'll be nothing after but sludge and muck."

There is a familiar saying attached to Halloween, Oct. 31: "If ducks do slide at Hallowtide, At Christmas they will swim. If ducks do swim at Hallowtide, At Christmas they will slide."

Birds and beasts are all more or less sensitive to coming changes in the weather and by observing their movements warning of changes in the weather may be noted.

Among other instances it is observed that sea birds, as stormy weather comes on, fly inland in search of food; wild fowls leave the marshy grounds for higher localities; swallows fly low before and during bad weather; frogs are unusually noisy before a rain; at the approach of a storm sheep huddle together near bushes and trees.

Only those animals that must lay up a store of food for the winter or must brave the weather in search of it are regarded as authorities on future weather conditions for long periods ahead.

The winter finds the groves and meadows deserted except by few forms of animal life. The birds are in the south—Florida, Cuba and even South America; the snakes, lizards, frogs and toads are sleeping underground insensible to cold or hunger; the insects have been destroyed or are hibernating; only the foxes, muskrats and a few other beasts are left out in the cold.

If at the beginning of winter the fur of these animals is observed to be thicker than usual it is taken by the weatherwise as an indication of a severe winter.

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MITHRAISM

MITHRAISM, that strong religious movement of the Persians that disputed for a while the advance of Christianity, was the subject of the fifth lecture by Professor Jackson in his Lowell Institute course at Harvard on the "Religions of Persia."

"There were two widely disseminated religious movements that sprang out of Zoroastrianism," said the speaker, "which affected the West as well as the East. One of these was the worship of Mithra, the divinity of light and truth; the other was Manichaeism, the faith founded in the third Christian century by the religious leader and teacher, Mani." Each of these creeds came for a time into a competition more or less active with Christianity, and each yielded ultimately to the world's greater religion in the West and to the Mohammedan belief in the East. The history of each movement has its interest to the thinking man today as well as to the theologian.

Of the two the faith in Mithra was the more widely diffused and attracted more attention in the world outside of Persia. It spread over all of western Europe, even into Great Britain, and persisted for two or three centuries. It was accepted at Rome, to which it is said to have been brought to Pompey by some captured pirates, and its limits were hardly less remarkable than those of the empire itself.

Mithra, lord of wide pastures, was the personification of the sun. Perhaps more accurately he was the light of day, rather than the sun itself. As a sun god he had some affinities to Jupiter. In the Avestan hymns he rides in his chariot with his arms uplifted, with Rashnu on his right and Christa on his left. He was the god of truth, and woe be to him who would lie in his presence. He had a place by the side of the supreme God, Ormazd. With his thousand senses and ten thousand eyes and ears, he sought out the sinner that had belied his word, broken his pledge or been untrue to his faith. And in this connection there was given a curious setting forth of relationships or rather their strength, under different combinations. The pledge between two friends was twenty fold; between co-partners in land thirty fold, and between business partners forty fold. The scale goes up into family life, rating fifty fold between man and wife, sixty fold between two pupils of the same master, and seventy fold between master and pupil. Son-in-law and father-in-law have an eighty fold pledge, two brothers a ninety fold bond, while between father and son it is one hundred fold. Between nations the pledge is one thousand fold, and in a matter connected with the religion of Mazda it was ten thousand fold. Mothers and sisters did not enter into this rating at all.

Monuments to Mithra, remains of the temples and accounts that have been preserved give some idea of the nature of the worship. It included illustrations and castigations, a sacrament, wine and various rites. Its temples were oftentimes in caves, and its symbols the figure of Mithra, usually as the slayer of the bull, and with him his faithful dog, nameless like the hound of Meleager, who is also a solar hero. The serpent, the scorpion, the cock and the ant were symbolic to Mithra and an emblem of the faith, also solar in meaning, were the torches, one inverted, typifying the sun in its circular course. Finally it lost strength and began to fade, giving place to Manichaeism.

Mani, teacher and prophet, was born in Babylon, but of Persian ancestry. He appeared in A. D. 216, and thanks to an eclectic education given him by his father, he formulated a creed composed of elements from the Persian, Babylonian and other faiths with a tincture of Christian ideas. It was in a way antagonistic to the young Christian church, and until very recently the knowledge of it has been by inference, for all of its books were lost. Polemic writings, quotations in the writings of the church fathers furnished all that was known of it until the latest finds in Chinese Turkestan.

Among the sand-buried ruins of Turkestan, preserved in the earth in one of the most arid regions of the earth, the Bible of this faith, or fragments of it have been so recently discovered that the scholars have not as yet had the time to decipher the texts. An expedition fostered by the Emperor William within ten years has resurrected these writings, which have literally been buried in the earth for a thousand years, and the task of deciphering is now in progress. It is the voice of the teacher himself, who says, "I, Mani, messenger of the god of truth and last of the prophets." On leather slips, and some on paper, to the number of eight hundred leaves, are the remains of this Bible, the work of translating which has devolved largely upon Professor W. F. K. Muller of the Berlin Academy. The story of Mani was sketched by Dr. Jackson, his friendliness with King Shapur and the enmity of King Bahram I, who put him to death in A. D. 276. The religion was dualistic in character; it made much headway following Mithraism, but succumbed to Christianity and Islam. Two hundred years later came Mazdakism, a movement of communism and heresy that had but a short life.